



**Ybor City Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**When: August 27, 2024, at 4 p.m.**  
**Where: Entrepreneur Collaborative Center**  
**2101 E. Palm Ave, Tampa, FL 33605**

CAC Members Attending		City Staff/Team members	
Rich Simmons, Chair- <i>At-Large</i>	Carolyn Rhodes- <i>HEYGNA</i>	Brenda Thrower	Captain Dan College
Michael Murphy - <i>At-Large</i>	Marcia Austin – <i>At-Large</i>	Cory Robinson	Srgt Crystal Shiver
Arnold Trueba- <i>At-Large/HCSO (V)</i>	Walter Pinillos – <i>Gaybor</i>	Jason Stewart	Offc. Brigitte Curbelo
Chris Wojtowicz – <i>At-Large</i>	Rich McIntyre- <i>At-Large</i>	Clayton Ratledge	Offc. Daniel Perez
Brittney Barrie – <i>At-Large (V)</i>	David Bailey - <i>HYNCA</i>	Mike Peterson	Offc. Jasmine House
Steven Barbas - <i>YCMS</i>	Fran Costantino - <i>Emeritus</i>		Darrius Stallworth
Olivia Aye – <i>At -Large</i>	Tom DeGeorge- <i>YMA</i>		
Larissa Baia- <i>HCC</i>			
CAC Members Absent		Guests	
Liz Welch, Vice Chair – <i>BLC</i>	Carmine Iavarone – <i>At-Large</i>	Jack Smith	
Joseph Capitano Sr. - <i>Emeritus</i>	Cristal Lastra - <i>Social Clubs</i>	Garbrielle Simmons	

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The Ybor CRA Community Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. as an in-person/call-in meeting by Chairperson Rich Simmons. A quorum was present. Roundtable introductions were made, and member roll call was taken.
- II. **Public Comment (3 minutes):** 1) David Scott is pleased with the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue bricking of the two blocks and said it has been great at slowing down the traffic. He would like to see the rest of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue bricked sooner than later and asked for it to be prioritized and funded. 2) Chip Williams mentioned the commercial grant programs and supports the raising the maximum grant amounts of Ybor 1 and 2.
- III. **Action Item:**  
**Approval of Ybor CAC Minutes of August 27, 2024:** The minutes were offered for review and comment. Hearing no comments, Chair Simmons entertained a motion to approve. ***There was a motion (Barbas/Wojtowicz) to approve the June 2024 minutes. The vote was unanimously approved.***
- IV. **Community Policing Reports**
  - a. **Tampa Police Report:** Captain Dan College reported on the crime stats included in the agenda packets. He said that crime is down with burglaries and larcenies. He announced that the Ybor liaison Officer James Wilcher was promoted to Corporal and assigned to the District 3 night shift so he will still be working in Ybor City and will keep his same phone number. He introduced

Officer Brigitte Curbelo, who will be taking over as the Ybor liaison. She has been working in Ybor City for the past 5 years so is familiar with the district and businesses. He also introduced Sgt. Crystal Shiver who has been working with sex crimes but now serves as the LBGT liaison for TPD. Lastly, Officer Curtis Williams was promoted and is overseeing the Ybor day shift. He has a great team in place, and they were welcomed by the CAC. Bailey asked about the car noise on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue that are backing up at night going to the garage. He can check on it. Barrie commented on the increase in the homeless transient population, particularly on the entrances into downtown/Ybor. The situation is challenging but is being monitored by TPD. Services continue to be offered to homeless if they want them. They have noticed new faces in the community. There was also a concern expressed about speeding along 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Street to and from East Tampa. TPD will monitor and can step up the enforcement.

- b. **Homeless Liaison Report:** Officer Perez provided the homeless liaison reports. He reported that not much has changed since the last report. Last report is that there are no beds available at Tampa HOPE. Barrie mentioned that there are encampments under I-275 and Downtown interchange and some are bathing. Costantino mentioned a homeless women hanging out at the Ybor laundry and adjacent area. TPD will follow up and YES Team is familiar with her. She was described as a young woman with blond hair.
- c. **Enhanced Code Enforcement Report:** Mike Peterson, Code Enforcement Officer, wanted updated the CAC on several cases that went before the Code Board. Four were found guilty and two were dismissed based upon the owner/operator providing proof of time sheets for employees on duty during at night in Ybor lots. With this documentation, the hearing master dismissed the cases. Code staff tried to challenge it stating that there was not presence of an attendant upon their inspection. The Code language does not state that the attendant needs to be visible so this needs to be clarified in the code to be enforceable. Until the code is approved with 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, it is difficult to enforce at this time until January 1<sup>st</sup> when it's enacted. Several cases on parking lot requirements were found in violation and 13 went before Code board and found guilty. They were given a 6-month compliance window before a \$100 /day fine is imposed. McIntyre commended Code for spending effort on working these cases. Is there any progress on abating the graffiti problem and boarded up windows in the district. They will check into it. Costantino asked about the Ybor Task Force, and he explained that code enforcement is the task force working in a team with TPFD at night.
- d. **YES! Team Report:** Jason Stewart, Block by Block Manager, deferred the report to Clayton Ratledge, Regional Director of Block by Block. He announced that Jason Stewart has been promoted to a regional operations manager as a result of the fantastic job he has done for Ybor. The good news is that he will be based in Tampa but will oversee operations on a regional basis in Florida. Thus, he will continue to oversee the Ybor YES Team and attend the monthly CAC meetings. There will be an interim manager hired into oversee Ybor's day-to-day YES Team operation and will report to Stewart. The CAC congratulated Stewart on his well-

deserved promotion and happy that he is not completely leaving Tampa or Ybor City. Stewart then reported on the monthly activities and summarized the monthly report provided.

## **V. Special Presentations:**

- a. **Public Art Process for CRA's** – Cory Robinson, the new CRA Arts and Culture Coordinator, introduced himself and presented a power point presentation that he has been sharing with all the CAC's. When he started this role, there was no process in place for public art so he has outlined a process that will be implementing across in all CRAs. He passed out handouts and walked everyone through the process. Scott mentioned that the largest mural in the state is the Adamo Mural and recommended he visit [www.Yborartproject.com](http://www.Yborartproject.com) to learn more about the Adamo Mural and the American Journey story. There was a lot of community sentiment and Ybor story telling in that mural. Costantino mentioned that she has seen couple of panels removed from the building and curious to know where they are. She knows about the pickle ball courts currently operating in the building and wondering if it's for ventilation. She will speak to the owner about the agreement with the community to preserve those panels when the site gets redevelopment. Bailey said that it was a requirement from the City, to remove some panels for code compliance purposes. Costantino wants to know where they are. Robinson said he would follow up on it and provided his contact information. Austin asked about performing arts, but Robinson said this process is for visual arts. He would like to conduct surveys to get the community preferences for public art. Simmons cautioned that with the legislative changes we need to be careful about how we fund art. Typically it is considered a capital improvement project. There was a conversation about community redevelopment plans and the state law. Thrower provided some background on Ybor City's redevelopment plans and the roles that the CAC's have played over the years. One of the priority projects next year is to update both CRPs so that we can incorporate and fund public art in Ybor City. Robinson provided some examples of some art projects that we could consider and is open to others by the community. One opportunity is the activation of art in the Centro Ybor parking garage windows but they need attention and repair. To activate them for art, Robinson would like to see improvements to include ventilation, lighting and general repair so that they are attractive for art displays. He is working on getting costs from Parking to repair and upgrade these boxes. There was also discussion about creating "selfie spots" with murals and back drops. Robinson will report back to the CAC in a few months with more details.

## **VI. Reports**

### **a. CAC Chairman's Report: Rich Simmons**

- **CRA Board Meeting Recap:** Simmons will be attending the next CRA Board meeting on 9/12 to represent the Ybor CAC and respond to a motion by CRA Board to discuss funding major art projects in Ybor City.

- **YCDC Inc. update-** A meeting was held in July and the Board is planning an organizational strategic planning session in near future.

**b. CRA Manager Report- Brenda Thrower**

- **CRA Projects Report** – Report is included in the packet. Phase 1 of the bricking project was completed and now working on the next block and intersection. There was some remaining funding so the project will continue, block by block. The total project scope is 14 blocks, and it will be completed over time as funding is identified. There was one complaint about the new brick segment being too bumpy and the engineers and contractor were made aware. The brick street is made of historic brick and the ride does calm the traffic down on 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Grant Team-** Report is included in packet. No comments.
- **Housing Program** – Thrower provided a verbal report on the launch of the new programs and application distribution. The kickoff was two weeks ago at the East Tampa CRA office and was well attending. Over 80 applications were picked up by residents in need of housing rehab and/or down payment assistance and some to Ybor City residents. Be Parks has held several outreach events to distribute applications and will provide a schedule of upcoming ones.

**Unfinished Business - none**

**New Business**

1. DeGeorge – He announced Ybor Merchants Association meet up after tonight's meeting at the Dirty Shame and invited everyone to attend.
2. Barrie asked what the plan is for updating the Community Redevelopment Plan and it will be starting with new fiscal year.

**Next Ybor CAC Monthly Meeting:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 4 p.m. at the ECC.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.**